

Applic. No. 09/556,662
Amdt. dated August 16, 2004
Reply to Office action of May 17, 2004

Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1, 3-11, 15-29, 31, and 33 remain in the application.

Claims 1 and 3 have been amended. Claim 2 has been cancelled.

In the third paragraph on page 2 of the Office action, claims 1, 5, and 8 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Hepburn (U.S. Patent No. 5,771,685) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

It is appreciatively noted from page 5 of the Office action that claims 2-4 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 2. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable. Since claim 1 is allowable, dependent claims 5 and 8 are allowable as well.

Allowable claim 3 has been amended so as to include the subject matter of claim 1. Therefore, claim 3 is allowable as well.

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In the third paragraph on page 3 of the Office action, claims 6 and 9-11 have been rejected as being obvious over Hepburn (U.S. Patent No. 5,771,685) in view of design choice under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Since claim 1 is allowable, dependent claims 6 and 9-11 are believed to be allowable as well.

It is appreciatively noted from page 4 of the Office action, that claims 15-17, 26-29, 31, and 33 are allowed.

Since only allowable claims remain the early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

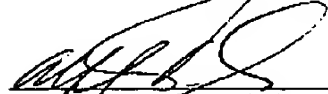
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Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner & Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicant(s)

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